



Christmas, 2012

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
c/o Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 496
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Dear Friends and Family,

Christmas touches our hearts in many ways. Family, memories, traditions, and faith combine to make it a very special time each year.

Our family is expecting a baby this Christmas. I am to be a grandfather for a second time. Luke and Kara, my son and daughter-in-law, are expecting their first on December 22. The nursery is ready, the crib is beautiful, and the chair next to it is comfortable. We wait, with anticipation, as we look forward to the baby's arrival. Isn't it great God loves babies! Christmas proved that.

For me, Christmas is a time to slow down and reflect. Christmas pulls me heavenward, toward the God who is Love, and the Son who is my Savior. And earthward to its cold and snow, Christmas lights, special smells, and being with those I love. I am pulled outward to the Salvation Army kettle, the church offering plate, and prayers for peace on earth. And inward, with feelings of joy and gratitude that God would do so much for me.

Forty-four years ago, being a missionary to Africa was just a dream. Thirty-three years ago we were packing. Decades later, I am a rich man. I have proved God over and over. More blessed than I deserve; God is more than I ever imaged.

The Christmas manger was not beautiful and had no comfortable chair next to it. But it was the place where forgiveness, love, and blessings met hurting humanity. Jesus had arrived. He came from heaven to rescue us and keep us forever. Our souls are drawn to the beautiful Christmas baby. Linger there. Make Christmas personal and holy.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Furlough Speaking Schedule

Dec.	2	Muncie, IN
	9	Milledgeville, IL
	16	Dayton, OH
Jan.	12 & 13	Kingwood, TX
	16	Tulsa, OK
	20	Amboy, IN
	26 & 27	Newburgh, IN
Feb.	2 & 3	Batesville, IN
	9 & 10	Downers Grove, IL
	17	Linden, IN
	23 & 24 AM	New Albany, IN
	24 PM	Edwardsville, IN
Mar.	3	Faith, Indianapolis, IN
	10	Woodstock, IL
	16 & 17	Christ, Indianapolis, IN
Apr.	6 & 7	Elyria, OH
	14 AM	GoodShepherd, Indianapolis, IN
	14 PM	**Greenfield, IN
	18	Lockport, IL
	21 AM	St.Luke's, Kokomo, IN
	21 PM	Zion, Kokomo, IN
	23	Mt.Olive, Indianapolis, IN
	27 & 28	Grace, Franklin, IN
May	5	Old Bethel, Indianapolis, IN
	19	W Terre Haute, IN
	26	Zionsville, IN
Jun.	2	Richland Center, WI
	13	Freeport, IL
	23 AM	Palso Heights, IL
	23 PM	Elmhurst, IL
	30	Leland, IL (tentative)
Jul.	14	Rochester, IN
	18	Polo, IL
Aug.	1	Marion, IN

**To our supporting churches
not yet on our calendar**

There are MANY open dates still available. Please look over the schedule and choose a date that we may come to your church and email me soon at—

wertz@joyintheharvest.com

If there is not an open Sunday that works for your calendar, we are very happy to come to a small group meeting any day of the week.

We'd love to see you!

**April 14PM Trinity Park Greenfield, IN will be an AREA MEETING for everyone interested.

Time to pack



Joy in the Harvest®



A Place for Little Children

Pre-School Building Project Complete

*You can never truly
enjoy Christmas
until you can look up
into the Father's face
and tell Him
you have received His
Christmas Gift.*

John R. Rice (1895-1980)
Baptist Evangelist, Pastor,
and Author

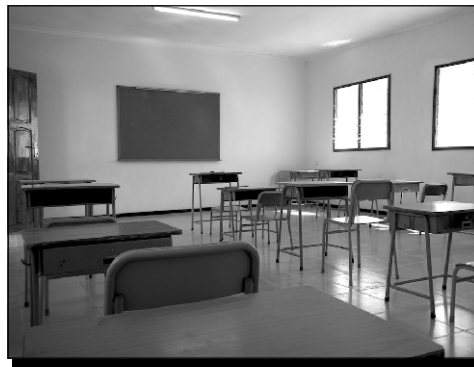
A gift from one family made it possible to construct a Pre-School for the Gungu United Methodist Church in Kigoma.

Joy in the Harvest finished the construction of a four classroom school building right next to the Gungu UM Church. This project took months of construction work.

In the foundation of the school, a "time capsule" was placed with photos and messages to be opened in the future. The ceremony to hand over the keys to the pastor of the church took place on Nov. 2nd.

The local church now owns this school and will handle all aspects of operating the school.

We praise God for this Pre-School where children can learn and grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus. ✕



CHECKLIST



USA Office

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Lowell & Claudia Wertz USA Furlough Contact Info.

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Christmas Envelope

An envelope is enclosed as a convenience for those wishing to financially support this ministry. Your support is greatly needed this year's end.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Claudia's mom, Pat Wiesner, loves to help us get our newsletter out.

Having made seventeen trips to Africa, Mom Wiesner is usually with us in Tanzania for the winter. She always helps us with our mailings. This year, because we are in the USA on furlough, she is working from her home in



Patricia Wiesner, 85, working to get this newsletter done and mailed.

Oregon, IL getting the envelopes ready. It is a lot of work to put on the mailing labels, stamp the return address, and put on the postage stamps. At least stamps in the USA don't need to be licked! We stuff and seal the envelopes together. Then it's off to the post office - they just love to see us coming! We hope you enjoy our newsletter. ✕



WE NEED YOUR HELP

One-Time Gifts Needed!

Matching Fund Wrap-up

Want your gift dollars to double? Some months ago, a family supporting *Joy in the Harvest* pledged to match every special gift given, “above and beyond” usual gifts, up to \$20,000. These gifts will go toward our General Fund, which supports every aspect of the ministry. We have so far, as of December 3rd, received \$16,919.70 **We still have \$3,080.30 to go** to reach the goal. Up to this amount, gifts will be matched, dollar per dollar, until the goal is reached. If we go over the top, your gifts will not be matched but will still go to JOY’s General Fund. Let’s get this done and go over the top! Every dollar given makes the work of *Joy in the Harvest* possible.

Radio JOY Fund Raiser

What would it cost to reach hundreds of thousand of people, daily, with the Gospel? We want to do this so we are trying to raise \$40,000 to purchase radio station equipment to put *Radio JOY* on the air. We have \$5,000. pledged so far, so **we still need \$35,000.** This special appeal is for one-time gifts to buy broadcast equipment and pay startup expenses. What a fantastic opportunity but it will only happen if God’s people give. Gifts of any size will be greatly appreciated. We are praying that all the funds will come by May 1, 2013 so the radio station equipment may be purchased and included in the ocean container being shipped this summer. The timeline is tight!

Container Supplies

We ship an ocean container to Africa once every five years. Important supplies for the ministry are shipped in that container. Donations for the Africans (such as used clothes and shoes) as well as the things to run the mission are needed. Funds are needed to purchase many items need to be shipped. For heavy and large items, this is really a once in five year opportunity to get them to Africa. No dollar amount has been set, but in the past, more than \$20,000 of purchases were included in container shipments. We will only be able to purchase the needed supplies if funds are available. Your gifts will enable ministry for years to come!



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We’ve Got Container Donations!

Q. We have gathered donations for the container project. What is the plan for them to get into the container?

A. We are so excited that churches and individuals are collecting things for Africa. Our last newsletter (Sept ‘12) yellow page is our “needs list”. It is also on our website. Feel free to contact us for more information about donations.



School kits waiting in Bath, PA

We will start receiving donations May 1, 2013. Drop-off points for donations are being set up in Zelienople PA (western PA); Woxall PA (eastern PA); Cape May Courthouse NJ; Carmel IN (near Indianapolis); and Lynwood IL (southern suburb of Chicago).

More information will be given in our March newsletter as to contact persons and locations. Thanks to each of you who are blessing the Africans through this project!

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light... they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest." Isaiah 9:2,3